

WEEVIL.

A MYSTERIOUS MILLIONAIRE.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

PLAY IN SPARTANBURG.

TERRORS OF EARTH SHOCKS.

SHOULD GROW LESS COTTON.

We are so used to thinking of Mr. John D. Rockefeller and Mr. Henry Ford as the richest men in the world that it is a shock to read that a speaker in the British parliament has asked whether that distinction does not belong to Sir Basil Zaharoff. Probably no one knows what is the truth of the matter, but it is unquestionable that no one in Europe, unless it be Herr Hugo Stinnes, has anything like the fortune of Sir Basil Zaharoff, says the Youth's Companion.

How many of our readers have ever heard of him? Probably few. He is not widely advertised by a talkative press, as his American rivals are. He is indeed a figure of mystery. No one knows just where he was born. Some say in Constantinople, some say in Athens, some say in Russia. His father was certainly a Russian and his mother a Greek. He inherited no money to speak of.

He is a naturalized citizen of France and his home is in Paris; but he is in British business and finance up to the shoulders, is a doctor of civil laws of Oxford, and was knighted by King George. He is the head of the great munitions firm of Vickers-Maxim, and the war vastly increased a fortune already large. He is interested in some valuable oil properties in the Near East and is a rival of the great Standard Oil and the Royal Dutch Shell company. He has millions invested in shipping, is prominent in some of the largest banking institutions in France and is a half owner of the gaming palace at Monte Carlo. He is said to have financed the military activities of Greece while Venizelos was in power, and there are many who say that his influence with Lloyd George, always strong, though carefully concealed, was one of the mainsprings of the British policy in the Near East. In his characteristic secretive way he is generous. He has given largely to Oxford university, the University of Paris and the University of Petrograd. He gave the money for the meeting of the Interparliamentary commission in Paris, and he has given a great deal to charitable causes.

In spite of all that, few persons outside his circle of business associates know the man even by sight. He is a tall, slender, gray-haired man, 72 years old, who always wears a red carnation in his buttonhole. He has never married and is said to avoid women, but so little is he known that in spite of his unquestioned power in international business and finance, and of his reputed power in international politics, he could walk the streets of Paris or London unrecognized. Perhaps he is not so rich and not so influential as he is suspected of being. The very air of mystery that surrounds him may lead people to exaggerate his importance and his power. But he is evidently a remarkable person whose story, if it could be told in full, would no doubt be crowded with interesting, not to say romantic, incidents. Not the least of his achievements is that in an age of advertising he has been able to foil the press agent.

Following an illness of exactly one week of grip and pneumonia, Thomas N. Erwin died at his home on lower Tom Hall street in Fort Mill Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Erwin left his work at the Heath Motor company, where he was employed as a machinist, on the Wednesday afternoon preceding his death and went to his home with a severe cold, which developed into pneumonia within a few hours. His condition became critical the early part of the week and continued to grow worse until the end came. Mr. Erwin was a member of Pleasant Hill Methodist church and was a good man. He came to Fort Mill from Lancaster county to make his home here about a year ago and in that time had made many friends in Fort Mill who heard of his death with regret. He was about 37 years old and is survived by his widow and four children, the oldest of whom is a girl 10 years of age. The interment will be at Harrison Methodist church this afternoon.

Would Burn Women's Colleges.

"Of all the fool things in the world, I think a college for women is the worst," wrote Alonso B. See, millionaire elevator builder of New York city in reply to a letter from Adolphus college soliciting funds for new college buildings. "If I had my way I would burn all the women's colleges in the country," he continued. He said the education young women need is to leave off smoking cigarettes, stop using slang, stop wearing flimsy, give up their hold-up manners, their paint, powder, high heels and high heel shoes, and to dress decently.

McLendon Joins Baptist Church.

The Rev. Baxter McLendon, evangelist who is well known in Fort Mill, has affiliated himself with Calvary Baptist church of Wilmington, N. C., according to a letter recently written by the pastor of that church, the Rev. J. A. Sullivan.

It isn't hard to guess who's boss around the house if you see the old man sitting on the front porch with his shoes off.

Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

Christmas turkeys are being offered by the farmers at 25 cents and 30 cents the pound.

Police court fines and forfeitures totaled about \$400 for the month of November, according to the monthly report of R. E. Steele, chief of police.

The majority of the convicts on the York county chaingang have recently been inoculated with influenza serum due to the fact that two or more cases of the malady were discovered among convicts last week. The county physician was unable to give the flu serum to all the convicts because his supply ran out. It was stated Monday that the remainder would be inoculated as soon as another supply could be obtained.

Gilmore Deas and Hall Neisler, convicts of the York county chaingang who recently made their escape, are still at large. It was reported last week that a relative of Deas who lives in Rock Hill would return the two men to the chaingang, but so far nothing has come of it. Deas and Neisler were trustees at the time they ran away on Sunday night of last week. Both men, who are white, had been convicted of car breaking in Rock Hill.

Citizens of Yorkville have 195 hogs to kill this fall and winter, according to statistics gathered by R. E. Montgomery, inspector for the board of health. Mr. Montgomery has recently inspected all of the hog pens in the town and incidentally has counted the number of hogs in the pens. His count of 195 of course does not include all of the little pigs, but he counted only those porkers large enough to kill for meat. He estimates that the 195 hogs will average 166 pounds each. The total meat supply raised by citizens, according to this figure, is 32,550 pounds.

The annual convention of the South Carolina Baptist association convened in Rock Hill Tuesday morning. The sessions are being held in the First Baptist church in that city and the convention is expected to continue through Thursday. About 500 delegates from all parts of the State are expected. J. J. Lawton of Hartsville is president of the convention and W. C. Allen of Dillon is secretary. President Mullins of the Southern Baptist convention is expected to be present and address the convention.

Preparation of a list of registered citizens from whom will be drawn those for jury duty during the next year was the principal business to come before the York county registration board which held its regular monthly meeting Monday. Names of women voters were not included in the list prepared by the board. Few registration certificates were issued during the day. Members of the registration board are N. J. N. Bowen of Yorkville, J. D. Gwin of Sharon and F. E. Clinton of Rock Hill.

Senator Hart said this week that various representatives of the federal department of agriculture had already begun writing him requesting a hearing before the delegation for York county relative to the farm demonstration work for another year. It has been reported that taxpayers at their annual meeting with the delegation just before the legislators go to Columbia for the annual legislative session will probably request that appropriations for the farm demonstration agent and the woman's home demonstration agent be discontinued this year.

"So far this year about 1,400 hunting licenses have been sold in York county," said Dan T. Woods, York county game warden, when asked about the matter the other day. "I think that compares favorably with sales up to this date last year." Mr. Woods went on to say, "The only record that I have on the matter just now is the bank deposit slips given me by the various sub-agencies for hunting licenses that I have over the county. While I sell a good many licenses myself direct, the great majority of them are sold by my sub-agents over the county. I might add, that while we have sold about as many licenses as we generally do up to this time, there has been mighty little weather fit for hunting and those hunters to whom I have talked report that they haven't had a bit of luck."

Fort Mill to Meet Gaffney Friday for Championship Honors.

The football team of the Fort Mill high school will go to Spartanburg tomorrow morning to play the Gaffney high school team for the championship of the upper section of the State. The game will be played on the Wotford college field at 2:30 o'clock and it is thought that it will be witnessed by a large crowd. A number of Fort Mill fans are planning to make the trip to Spartanburg tomorrow morning in their cars for the game. The winner of this game will play the Thornwell orphanage team for the championship of western South Carolina and will later meet a team from the lower section of the State, perhaps Charleston, for the high school championship of South Carolina.

Gaffney has a strong team, as is evidenced by the fact that last Thursday afternoon she tied the Rock Hill eleven. Local football enthusiasts believe, nevertheless, that the Fort Mill boys stand an excellent chance of winning. The local team has an undefeated record for the season. They have scored 310 points to their opponents' 15 in seven games. It was realized that the Fort Mill team was a good one when the boys so completely outclassed the heavy Abbeville team brought here for the game last Thursday by Major James D. Fulp, with the avowed purpose of "licking Fort Mill."

Although the Fort Mill team owes its present position as champion of the Catawba association to the action of the South Carolina high school committee in ruling out Rock Hill and Chester, the team nevertheless deserves much credit for the clean game the boys have played. Coach Herth balk also deserves much credit for the invaluable assistance he has given the boys.

Mrs. A. A. Young Dead.

The funeral of Mrs. A. A. Young, who died at the home of her son, Alex E. Young, in Rock Hill last Thursday night, was held at the home Friday evening and the interment was in the Fort Mill cemetery a few hours thereafter. Mrs. Young had been in declining health for several months and for several days preceding her death it was known that the end was near.

Prior to a few years ago, when she moved to Rock Hill to make her home, Mrs. Young had lived in Fort Mill for about 40 years and had many friends here who greatly regretted to hear of her death. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. J. W. H. Dyche, pastor of the Fort Mill Baptist church, and the Rev. Dr. R. W. Alexander, pastor of the First Baptist church of Rock Hill. Mrs. Young was a devoted member of the Baptist church and took great interest in its work. She was 78 years old and was born in Kershaw county.

Mrs. Young is survived by three sons, J. T. Young of Fort Mill, Manly S. Young of Concord, N. C., and Alex E. Young of Rock Hill, and four daughters, Mrs. J. B. Mills of Fort Mill, Mrs. J. E. Bruce of Winnsboro, Mrs. R. V. Macon of Macon, Ga., and Mrs. E. E. Baker of Atlanta, and by a number of grandchildren.

Delegation to Meet Monday.

A. A. McKeown, district farm demonstration agent for upper South Carolina, came to Fort Mill Wednesday afternoon to consult with Dr. J. L. Spratt and W. R. Bradford, York members of the Legislature, relative to continuing for another year the work of the demonstration agent in York county. Recently there has been opposition expressed by taxpayers in different sections of the county to the work of both the county demonstration agent and the woman's home demonstration agent. It is not yet known what the attitude of the legislative delegation will be toward continuing the work of the agents; but the matter will be gone into at a special meeting of the delegation which Senator John K. Hart has called for next Monday morning at the court house in York, when Mr. McKeown and perhaps others interested in keeping the work going will be heard. It is certain, however, that the delegation will not reach a decision until those who are opposed to the work have been given a hearing.

\$50,000 for Strawberry Plant.

Frank E. Beatty, president of a nursery firm in Michigan, has just paid \$50,000 for one Rockhill strawberry plant, gaining the exclusive right to propagate the berry. The plant was originated by Harlow Rockhill of Iowa, and is almost as large as a bushel basket. Mr. Beatty says he will risk his reputation as an expert that the new plant will revolutionize the industry, producing more and better berries from early spring until snow flies.

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Tidal Waves Also Force of Nature That Bring Disaster.

"The United States has been singularly free from recorded earthquakes, perhaps the most disastrous being in 1811, when a very severe shock occurred in the Mississippi valley south of the Ohio, which was felt in New York in one direction and the West Indies in another," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society. "This earthquake changed the face of the earth. A vast extent of land was sunk, lakes were formed, and even the course of the Mississippi river was changed for a time.

"Most of the earthquakes occurring of late years can hardly be classed with the great ones of history, nearly all of the destruction being caused by uncontrollable fires. In the more stable zones long periods may elapse between shocks, as for instance, in Kingston, Jamaica, 215 years intervened.

"The cause of earthquakes and volcanoes is an elusive problem, not yet settled to the satisfaction of the scientist. Tremors of the earth may be caused by many things. The explosion of mines, falling in of caves, slipping in of rock strata, and many other movements of the earth may cause them; but for the great shocks which have occurred almost since the history of the world began we must look further.

"Though many times there seems to be an intimate connection between earthquakes and volcanoes, the law regarding them has not been established. Some remarkable coincidences have been observed in late years. The terrible cataclysm of Mount Pelee, which, on May 8, 1902, almost instantly killed 30,000 inhabitants, was preceded by the earthquake which in January and April of the same year wrecked a number of cities in Mexico and Guatemala. The distance between these points is at least 2,000 miles, showing how deepseated must have been the disturbance, if, as has been suggested, there was a communication between them. The great San Francisco earthquake was preceded by two days by one of the most violent eruptions of Vesuvius recorded in many years.

"The greatest of recent volcanic disturbances which blew the top off of Mount Katmai in Alaska and gave birth of the wonderful Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes was preceded and accompanied by a series of severe earthquakes."

Admiral Billings described the great tidal wave which he saw at Arica, then in Peru, some years ago. He was an officer on the U. S. S. Wateries, which was anchored in the harbor at Arica at the time of the cataclysm.

"Some time after the initial tremor," he wrote, "the sea receded until the shipping was left stranded, while as far to seaward as our vision would reach we saw the rocky bottom of the sea, never before exposed to human gaze, with struggling fish and monsters of the deep left high and dry. The round-bottomed ships keeled over on their beam ends, while the Wateries rested easily on her floor-like bottom; and when the returning sea, not like a wave, but rather like an enormous tide, came sweeping back, rolling our unfortunate companion ships over and over, leaving some bottom up and others masses of wreckage, the Wateries rose easily over the tossing waters unharmed.

"From this moment the sea seemed to defy the laws of nature. Currents ran in contrary directions, and we were borne here and there with a speed we could not have equaled had we been steaming for our lives. At irregular intervals the earthquake shocks recurred, but none of them so violent or long continued as the first.

"About 8:30 p. m. the lookout hailed the deck and reported a breaker approaching. Looking seaward, we saw, first, a thin line of phosphorescent light, which loomed higher and higher until it seemed to touch the sky; its crest, crowned with the death light of phosphorescent glow, showing the sullen masses of water below. Heralded by the thundering roar of a thousand breakers combined, the dreadful tidal wave was upon us at last. Of all the horrors of this dreadful time, this seemed the worst. Chained to the spot, helpless to escape, with all the preparations made which human skill could suggest, we could but watch the monster wave approach without the sustaining help of action. That the ship could ride through the masses of water about to overwhelm us seemed impossible. We could only grip the lifeline and wait the coming catastrophe.

"With a crash our gallant ship was overwhelmed and buried deep beneath a semi-solid mass of sand and water. For a breathless eternity we were submerged; then, groaning in every timber, the staunch old Wateries

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Editor Fort Mill Times:

Since the writer has received several requests for another article on the cotton situation, the farmer's many perplexities and everything in general, I have some slight hope of doing a little good; and if I do not state facts, I want some one to call me.

This is a beautiful, sunny Thanksgiving day over the sunny South's cotton fields, and the uppermost thought in my mind at this moment is, how thankful we should be for the boll weevil. It is the most astonishing thing to me why our experiment stations and government agents are struggling to exterminate the weevil. Is it not a fact that previous to the entry of the boll weevil that cotton sold on the streets of Fort Mill and all over the heartbroken South for 5 cents per pound?

It is always the last 3 or 4 million bales of the crop that break the market. It is hard to imagine a race of people so foolish as to struggle to kill something that God sent that now makes the price of cotton 25 cents rather than 5 cents per pound. A 15 million bale crop means not over 10 cents per pound, or 75 million dollars; a 10 million bale crop means 1 billion 250 million dollars, and with less expense—or certainly not more expense—or a difference of half a billion dollars.

In other words, the boll weevil causes the farmer to get \$2 for every \$1 he got before the weevil came. Why struggle to grow two bales of cotton where only one is required, and at the same time blight the lives and happiness of millions of boys and girls over our Southland, while the millionaires in England and New England wake up at midnight and laugh at the crazy fools down South?

As I see it, the government is spending untold thousands to kill the weevil and thereby keep the South of our fathers crippled and down and out. Deny it if you can. No one has ever accused the cotton farmer of the ability to look out for himself, and already they are planning a bumper crop for next year and signing their own death warrant to financial independence—if the weevil lets it grow as the farmer plans.

It has been one continual fight this season to keep the cotton price up, even in the face of two short crops in succession, and also a short crop in Egypt and India. What will it be, friends, with a big yield all over the world? If they raise a bumper crop next year it will be funny to stand on the street corners and in our stores and listen to the cotton growers talk as the price tumbles. It will be like a thief cursing himself for getting caught. Remember that people must eat, but they can do with mighty little clothes. Adam and Eve got in trouble over eating, not dressing, and there's a lot of Adams and Eves in our midst today (apologies where due).

The road to happiness and contentment points to less cotton than ever, more good things to eat, more good roads to ride over in God's sunlight and moonlight. And as we dream, the light of a wonderful day will dawn over the fair South.

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As I see it, the government is spending untold thousands to kill the weevil and thereby keep the South of our fathers crippled and down and out. Deny it if you can. No one has ever accused the cotton farmer of the ability to look out for himself, and already they are planning a bumper crop for next year and signing their own death warrant to financial independence—if the weevil lets it grow as the farmer plans.

It has been one continual fight this season to keep the cotton price up, even in the face of two short crops in succession, and also a short crop in Egypt and India. What will it be, friends, with a big yield all over the world? If they raise a bumper crop next year it will be funny to stand on the street corners and in our stores and listen to the cotton growers talk as the price tumbles. It will be like a thief cursing himself for getting caught. Remember that people must eat, but they can do with mighty little clothes. Adam and Eve got in trouble over eating, not dressing, and there's a lot of Adams and Eves in our midst today (apologies where due).

The road to happiness and contentment points to less cotton than ever, more good things to eat, more good roads to ride over in God's sunlight and moonlight. And as we dream, the light of a wonderful day will dawn over the fair South.

Benj. M. Lee.

Fort Mill, Nov. 30.

Should Grow Less Cotton.

Mr. Lee thinks Boll Weevil a Friend to Southern Farmer.

Editor Fort Mill Times:

Since the writer has received several requests for another article on the cotton situation, the farmer's many perplexities and everything in general, I have some slight hope of doing a little good; and if I do not state facts, I want some one to call me.

This is a beautiful, sunny Thanksgiving day over the sunny South's cotton fields, and the uppermost thought in my mind at this moment is, how thankful we should be for the boll weevil. It is the most astonishing thing to me why our experiment stations and government agents are struggling to exterminate the weevil. Is it not a fact that previous to the entry of the boll weevil that cotton sold on the streets of Fort Mill and all over the heartbroken South for 5 cents per pound?

It is always the last 3 or 4 million bales of the crop that break the market. It is hard to imagine a race of people so foolish as to struggle to kill something that God sent that now makes the price of cotton 25 cents rather than 5 cents per pound. A 15 million bale crop means not over 10 cents per pound, or 75 million dollars; a 10 million bale crop means 1 billion 250 million dollars, and with less expense—or certainly not more expense—or a difference of half a billion dollars.

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